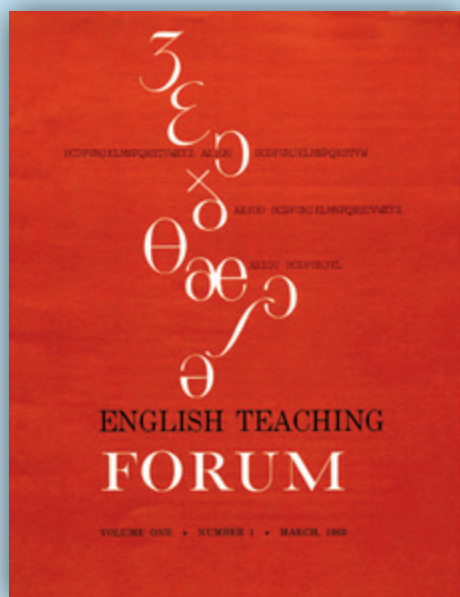


Editor's Note

As you can see from the cover, 2012 is a special year for *English Teaching Forum*—a celebratory year in which we mark the five decades that our journal has been in publication.

In preparation for the 50th anniversary, we delved into our archives and reviewed the long and storied life of the journal. The first issue of *English Teaching Forum*, published in March of 1963, evolved from the experimental *English Teaching Newsletter* that was published three times in 1962. Response to the newsletter was so favorable that a decision was made to publish a regular quarterly journal, and the name change signaled that development.

English Teaching Forum, as the introduction to that first issue stated, was to be “a journal of facts and ideas, devoted to the interests of those engaged in teaching English as a foreign language.” And, to use the vernacular, “the rest is history.”



First issue of *English Teaching Forum*,
March 1963

By the time the second issue was published in June of 1963, *Forum* was being “read by teachers in over seventy countries in all parts of the world.” Over the years, the number of countries increased, and by the 1990s, circulation reached a high of approximately 125,000 readers. In recent years, the circulation has been in the 80,000 range with distribution in 125 countries or more.

Over its 50-year life span, *Forum* has published more than 3,060 articles. Those articles were written by 2,750 authors (some authors have been published more than once) and came from 139 different countries. With stats like that, *Forum* can truly claim to be a global publishing enterprise.

In going through the archives, besides looking at the statistics, we reviewed how *Forum* content has changed over the years. To share that content with our readers, we created a special section called “Reflections” that will appear in each issue of Volume 50. We invited authors of past articles to revisit what they published before and to offer updated views of their topics. We hope this approach will give our readers an interesting perspective on English language teaching. In each issue we will also reprint a selection of articles with an introduction by one of our Regional English Language Officers. These reprints—once all four issues of 2012 are published—will give a broad overview of many aspects of teaching English as a foreign language.

We hope our readers will enjoy these special features and that they will join wholeheartedly in our year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of *English Teaching Forum*.

—MK